

PRESS RELEASE FROM
PRESIDING OFFICER DUWAYNE GREGORY



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Gregory Hosts Prescription Drug Takeback Events



HAUPPAUGE, N.Y. – Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory and the Suffolk County Police Department (SCPD) recently hosted a successful prescription drug takeback at Tanner Park Senior Center in Copiague. Over the course of the afternoon, a steady stream of people returned unused medication that added to the more than 23,000 pounds of prescription drugs SCPD has destroyed since 2010.

The event was funded by Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE), which received a grant from the New York State Department of Health to help local governments host prescription drug takebacks. Presiding Officer Gregory and SCPD also plan to host another takeback event in the fall with the support of CCE.

“I was honored to partner with Citizens Campaign for the Environment and the Suffolk County Police Department for this important cause,” said Presiding Officer Gregory. “I wish to thank everyone who brought their unused pills for safe disposal. Together, our efforts will help keep our water safe and our medication out of the wrong hands.”

Unused pills can be dropped off at any Suffolk County Police Precinct at any time, though liquids and syringes are not accepted. To safely dispose of liquids, mix with an unpalatable substance such as coffee grounds or cat litter and place in household garbage. Many hospitals

and health care providers will accept syringes, including HRHC Maxine S. Postal Tri-Community Health Center in Amityville, HRHC Martin Luther King, Jr. Health Center in Wyandanch and Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Center in West Islip.

In another effort to help fight drug abuse in Suffolk County, Gregory stood last week with Families in Support of Treatment (F.I.S.T.), which held a press conference at the Suffolk County Legislature in support of state legislation to require doctors to receive three hours of continuing education every two years on addiction and pain management.

Speaking at the event was Teri Kroll of Lindenhurst, who lost her 23-year-old son Timothy to a heroin addiction that he developed after being prescribed pain medication for a migraine. She now serves as the coordinator of People United to Stop Heroin on Long Island (PUSH), an organization facilitated by the Long Island Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (LICADD).

“Why wouldn’t a doctor spend three hours to save a life like my son’s?” she asked. “Why would a doctor object?”

Attached Photo: Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory and Suffolk County Police Officer Sabrina Pitch welcome a resident who brought unused medication to a prescription drug takeback event in Copiague earlier this month.

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